




FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS



**Message from Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh**

The holiday season is finally upon us! The holidays are typically a time for us to celebrate with family and friends. Unfortunately, this is also the time of year when people tend to be at their most vulnerable. Loss of loved ones is especially hard to deal with during this season. Isolation, the inability to get out of the house due to weather or other issues, and seasonal depressive disorder often compound feelings of grief and loneliness. This in turn can lead to actions of self-neglect.

Throughout the year, my Senior Protection Unit works with Adult Protective Services and other community agencies in reviewing these types of cases as well as others. This year, Adult Protective Services received over 500 referrals for self-neglect. Our goal in reviewing these cases is to protect our seniors from unsafe situations and ensure that seniors have the resources they need to thrive in our community. In working with Adult Protective Services, my office often files petitions in Probate Court to help protect seniors and make sure they are safe.

Self-neglect occurs when someone fails to provide for themselves the things necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness. Signs of self-neglect can include isolation, depression, loss of interest in activities, dehydration, malnutrition, poor personal hygiene, unattended or untreated health problems, and hazardous or unsafe living condition/arrangements (e.g., improper wiring, no heat, or no running water).

So how can we help? Identification of self-neglect and reporting are critical to combating this issue. If you suspect any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, I encourage you to contact the Adult Protective Services hotline.

Some other ideas could be to organize an activity at your local community center. Get together with your kids or grandkids and make cards for nursing home residents. Shovel a neighbor's driveway. Share a meal together. Plan a movie night. Most importantly, check in on your loved ones. A quick text, phone call, or email can do wonders. It really is the little things that can make the biggest difference.

For more information go to: <https://www.summitdifs.org/services/adult-protective-services.html>

If someone you know is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or if you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, contact Summit County Adult Protective Services at (330) 643-7217.

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Visit our Senior Safety Website:
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



We enjoyed meeting everyone at the Summit Mall Senior Fair in October!

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips!



As the holidays approach, many of us are spending more time shopping. Those who carry purses need to be extra careful because purse snatchings often increase at this time of the year.

The best advice to avoid purse-snatching is to consider *not* carrying a purse. Instead, use a small wallet that holds your driver's license, a credit card, and some cash. Place it in a front coat pocket or front pants pocket. It is rare for a robber to approach a woman who is not carrying a purse and demand money. However, there are some important things to remember:

- Always walk with confidence and be aware of your surroundings.
- Hold your purse firmly over your shoulder and make it obvious that you have a tight grip on it.
- Be aware that women also steal purses!
- Be aware that most purse snatchings occur in broad daylight in busy parking lots of stores and malls.
- Be suspicious of cars driving past you slowly, as many purse snatchers grab purses from their vehicles.
- Finally, if a purse snatcher *does* try to take your purse, do not fight with him or her. The thief will usually end up with what they want anyway, and there is no need for you to be injured in the process.

Be safe and have a healthy,
happy holiday season!

Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

November 29, 2022, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Free Women's Self-Defense Class
Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium
2345 5th St., 44221

December 3, 2022, 10:00am-2:00pm

Summit County Gun Buyback &
Safety Initiative
Arlington Church of God
539 S. Arlington St., Akron

December 7, 2022, 11:00am-1:30pm

WAKR Senior Lunch
St. George Fellowship Church
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Copley

December 8, 2022, 11:00am

Ward 7 Safety Meeting
Firestone Park Community Center
1480 Girard St., Akron 44301

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2023 CALENDAR



Thanks to
Hudson Meadows Retirement Community
for this year's cover photo

Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

If you would like to receive a 2023
Senior Safety Awareness Calendar,
call our office at (330) 643-2787